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4 September 1986
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NOTE FOR: The Director
The Deputy Director
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: Dave Gries

SUBJECT: Durenberger/Hamilton Letter on Reporting Sensitive
Intelligence Operations to Congress

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After talking with senior HPSCI and SSCI staff--all the Members are out of town--it appears that the letter is a Durenberger-McMahon initiative intended to complete the process that started last March with SSCI's hearing on sensitive collection hearings.

The letter was apparently completed on 12 September when most Members were leaving or had left for the recess. Leahy was told about the letter and refused to sign it, but did decide not to hold it up. Stump refused to sign and did hold it up for a few days. According to staffers, neither Cohen nor Boren know anything about the letter. This suggests that Durenberger did not share the letter with any other Senators, since he would be unlikely to skip over Cohen and Boren. The situation in HPSCI is roughly analogous.

In these circumstances, we should not answer the Durenberger/Hamilton letter until HPSCI and SSCI have new chairmen and we are able to learn how vigorously they wish to pursue the issue. My guess is that if Cohen becomes chairman, he will settle for arrangements that are much less onerous.

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